



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 03-026
Prompted By: IE03-023
Date Opened: 06/12/2003
Principal Investigator: PETER KIVETT
Subject: WHEEL CRACKING

Manufacturer: GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
Products: 1999-2003 SILVERADO, SIERRA, TAHOE, SUBURBAN, YUKON
Population: 384608

Problem Description: THE TWO-PIECE WHEELS MAY DEVELOP CRACKS IN THE OUTBOARD BEAD SEAT WELD AREA. THIS MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF TIRE PRESSURE, EXCESSIVE WHEEL VIBRATION, TIRE DAMAGE, AND POSSIBLY WHEEL FAILURE.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: OPEN A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION.

Engineer: Peter Kivett
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: GM ISSUED A TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (TSB 03-03-10-001) IN JANUARY 2003, TO ADDRESS A WHEEL CRACKING CONCERN IN MODEL YEAR 1999 THROUGH 2003 GM SILVERADO, SIERRA, TAHOE, SUBURBAN, YUKON VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH THE SIX BOLT 16 X 6.5 FULL-FACE STEEL WHEELS. THE TWO-PIECE WHEELS MAY CRACK ALONG THE OUTBOARD BEAD SEAT WELD. THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT THE CONDITION TENDS TO OCCUR IN VEHICLES THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN OFF-ROAD. IF THE CONDITION IS FOUND IN ONE OR MORE WHEELS ON A VEHICLE, DEALERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO REPLACE ALL OF THE WHEELS WITH HEAVY-DUTY WHEELS. ODI HAS RECEIVED TWO COMPLAINTS ALLEGING CRACKED WHEELS IN VEHICLES COVERED BY THE BULLETIN. IN ONE OF THE COMPLAINT VEHICLES, THREE WHEELS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE CRACKED IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE BULLETIN. A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION HAS BEEN OPENED TO ASSESS THE SCOPE, FREQUENCY, AND SAFETY RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE WHEEL CRACKING CONDITION DESCRIBED IN TSB 03-03-10-001.

Jeffrey L. Quandt
VMJ
6/14/03